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Susan Binkley

A VISION IN PROGRESS

A deep dive into the plans, challenges, and support behind Blue Monarch's 24,000-square-foot expansion.

EMPATHY IN MOTION

+ *STYLE MEETS SOUL AT
WISTERIA HILL BOUTIQUE*

ISSUE 3 2025

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Empathy in Motion

A walk in different shoes

THE SOUNDS of the self-checkout registers *beep* through the entire store. The short lines of people with baskets and carts move across the reflective tile like a conveyor belt and out the door. *Uh, oh.* A man at the checkout stood frozen. The total amount due on the screen was higher than he knew was on his card. He had to decide what to put back: something he needed or something for his grandkid. His hand hovered over the items, trying to decide quickly so the people behind didn't notice. Luckily, the woman behind him *did* notice. Before he could speak, the woman behind him quietly passed him a few dollars. No hesitation, no grand speech — just a simple nod and a kind smile that said, "I've been there too."


Moments like this don't make headlines, but they are what makes a strong community. Empathy isn't just about understanding someone's struggle — it's about moving toward them. It's choosing to help, even in small ways. It's listening when it would be easier to roll your eyes, huff, and walk away.

Empathy in motion is the teacher who stays after school to help a struggling student. The small business owner who donates meals after a storm. The neighbor who checks in just to say, "How are you doing?" These aren't grand gestures, but they are the moments that build something lasting — connection, trust, and the kind of community where people show up for each other.

That's what this issue is about: people who don't just talk about kindness but live it. Their stories remind us that empathy is not passive — it's an action, a decision, and a way of life.

And in a world that often feels divided, empathy is what keeps us together. It reminds us that our stories are connected, that we belong to each other, and that none of us are truly alone.

As you turn these pages, may you be inspired to move — to listen, to step forward, to choose compassion. Because when we walk in each other's shoes, we walk forward together. And that is what makes a community. **GN**


Wesley Bryant,
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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LEAD LAYOUT ARTIST Brianna Brubaker

SENIOR LAYOUT ARTIST Melissa Davis

LAYOUT ARTIST Ben Adams

LEAD PRINT AD DESIGNER Todd Pitts

LEAD PHOTOGRAPHER Ashleigh Newnes

PHOTOGRAPHER Brooke Snyder

FREELANCE PHOTOGRAPHERS Adin Parks,

Robin Fast, Steve Zak, Chris Morris, Larry McCormack

LEAD WRITER Tina Neeley

FREELANCE WRITERS Jeriah Brumfield, Amanda West, Sara Hook,
Kali Bradford, Gabriel Huff, Richard Klin, Dave Lenehan, Rachael Smith

FOOD CRITIC Shellymar Repollet

STORY COORDINATOR Haley Potter

PROOFREADER Michelle Harwell

JR. PROOFREADER Kaitlin Rettig

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT Faith Cashion, Kevin Hines,
Jay Hutt, Kevin Maples, Janet Mullins, Sissy Smith, Sandra Thomas

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HURRICANES, HEARTBREAK,

In the face of devastation, **Brandon Imhoff** and his volunteers deliver hope, supplies, and humanity.

By Jeriah Brumfield // Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

EVERY YEAR, hurricanes roar across the United States, leaving in their wake devastation that alters the lives of thousands of people. Hurricanes alter landscapes and communities, displace families, and leave destruction in their wake. For those affected, the road to recovery is long, but it's often reversed by generous neighbors and people who are willing to lend a hand, no matter the distance. Brandon Imhoff is one of those people. For over eight years, he has answered the call to help, sending numerous tractor-trailer loads of supplies to disaster-stricken areas. With his latest efforts focused on hurricane relief, Imhoff's heart has become more deeply devoted to the people he serves.

Imhoff actively participated in disaster relief efforts for many years before the recent hurricanes that plagued North Carolina and Northeast Tennessee.

"I've been doing disaster relief for other communities for about eight years," he said. "The hurricane relief marks the 15th tractor-trailer I've sent from Manchester to disaster areas over the years. Four of those trucks were to Western North Carolina for hurricane relief."

He said helping others has always been something he enjoys. What inspires him more than the logistics of delivering supplies is being a dependable resource for others in moments when hope feels distant. The emotional toll of hurricane relief is weightier than Imhoff could have

ever anticipated. While helping others is rewarding, the Hurricane Helene mission hit closer to home.

"I had several friends on the ground working there, sending calls, photos, and videos. I also met some amazing people who lived through the disaster and heard their stories firsthand."

The emotional weight of hearing personal accounts made this effort mentally taxing, so much so that Imhoff had to step back for a few days to reset.

Imhoff's relief efforts have been nothing short of remarkable.

"The impact has been astronomical," he said, recounting how three tractor-trailer loads and one 24-foot cargo trailer of supplies reached hurricane victims in desperate need.

Having spent years building connections with other relief groups, Imhoff knows exactly what he and the volunteers need to prioritize in the immediate aftermath of a disaster. He knows what the most critical needs are and adjusts what they send based on that.

Between coordinating food, drinks, clothing, and medical supplies, Imhoff and his volunteers make sure to deliver resources quickly and efficiently.

"I organize donations in Manchester, then get them into the hands of people who need them most."

Logistics are always a challenge, especially when a natural disaster disrupts

infrastructure. Imhoff explained that the biggest challenge this time was securing a location for the tractor-trailer. Unlike the tornado relief efforts of the past — where roads remained mostly intact — hurricane damage left entire roadways destroyed.

"It took me a couple of days to secure a location that a tractor-trailer could get into without any detours that possibly could not support a tractor-trailer on the detoured roads."

Roads were often impassable, requiring quick thinking and precise coordination. But Imhoff's experience helped him navigate the challenges. He made sure the site was more accessible and contained enough space for the truck and unloading equipment.

While some moments are too painful to recount, Imhoff tries to reflect on the inspiring strength he witnessed in the face of disaster.

"One thing that always stays with me is how strong, kind, caring people are in times of need."

He believes this example of unity in the middle of adversity is one of humanity's most beautiful qualities.

"We have a great nation and communities that come together in times of need to help others. I love being a part of that and seeing how much people care and are willing to help other people and communities they have never met or been to. It's really amazing to see in action."

AND

Hope

Imhoff's efforts are not tied to any organization or committee. He is simply a man with a heart for helping. Over the years, he has curated a network of volunteers who support his work. He said that when a disaster strikes, he immediately receives hundreds of calls and texts from people in the community ready to step up and help. Through all of his work, Imhoff has learned that collaboration and teamwork are at the core of effective disaster relief.

"It's incredible how much people are willing to do for others, especially when times are tough," he said. "It's a reminder that, despite the challenges we face as a society, people truly care for one another."

The response from his neighbors is always overwhelming, with individuals coming together to donate goods, volunteer their time, and support the cause.

The response from the community was beyond what Imhoff expected. Sending three tractor-trailer loads and a 24-foot cargo trailer was the largest shipment he had ever sent to one area.

"People like to help others in need. It's just human nature, for the most part, to help others," he explained.

He believes that disaster relief provides a lifeline to those in need and helps build connections between community members.

"With volunteers here locally helping me, people get to meet others from the community they did not know. There have been some really good friendships made locally from relief efforts that they otherwise may have never crossed

paths and met. It could very well be our community that needs the same help one day."

Despite the negative headlines that often dominate the news, Imhoff believes there is more good in the world than we realize.

"We all have our differences in life. We live our lives in different ways. Most of the time, people disagree on things and may even criticize others for those differences. But it's wonderful to see all that put aside for a greater need."

Imhoff gives back to the community in various ways. In addition to disaster relief, he has sponsored local sports teams, helped provide access to school lunches for kids, and even purchased bullet-proof vests for police dogs. His future goals remain centered on giving back to the community that has always supported him.

"If I can do it, anyone can. I just hope to inspire others through my kindness and willingness to help. Be the person who makes a difference in someone's life. We all need help in our lives in some form or fashion." **GN**



Style Meets Soul at Wisteria Hill Boutique

Katy Whaley's personalized touch helps customers discover unique styles and boost their confidence.

By Jeriah Brumfield
Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

WISTERIA HILL Boutique is a cozy shopping destination where timeless style and a touch of country charm come together effortlessly. The boutique has a warm, inviting vibe, with soft lighting that shines over each thoughtfully arranged display. Racks of stylish clothes in every color and texture imaginable welcome you to take a closer look. Shelves stocked with elegant handbags and sparkling jewelry catch the light just enough to spark your curiosity. It's a boutique that feels like home, with a touch of flair that makes you want to stay and explore.

The iconic four pink chairs create a cozy nook in one corner. It's a perfect spot for light-hearted conversations or a quick rest while deciding between two equally fabulous and affordable outfits. The vibes are effortlessly uplifting, radiating with ease, positivity, and charm.





Every detail — from the layout of the displays to the personalized styling advice owner Katy Whaley offers — feels intentional. The boutique itself mirrors Whaley’s bright, caring personality — a little slice of her heart right in the middle of town.

A licensed cosmetologist with a knack for making others feel good, Whaley has always had a gift for lifting spirits.

“I felt like it was something I was meant to do,” she said. “I just love to make people feel good about themselves.”

At Wisteria Hill Boutique, it’s all about clothes and confidence. Whaley helps her customers uncover styles that flatter their unique shapes and personalities. Her styling approach is personal and hands-on.

“Handing the customer something they wouldn’t normally gravitate toward gets them out of their comfort zone, but once they try it on and see that it’s comfortable and looks great on them — it truly helps a lot. We want to make sure they are comfortable.”

Whaley shared that Wisteria Hill partners with other boutiques to ensure inclusivity in the selection of trendy shoes, clothing, jewelry, and handbags in local boutiques.

“We love every body style, so we try to carry all sizes but are limited in our plus sizes. Amy Chalker, owner of Chasin Trends Clothing Co., and I are friends. I usually send people who are looking for something in particular in those sizes straight over to her, and the same goes for her.”

In addition to providing a unique shopping destination, Wisteria Hill gives customers a space to connect, share, and simply be.

“We listen to so many people’s life stories, happy or sad. Whether they are telling us they are moving down here from Ohio and building a house and can’t wait to shop with me more or their husband suddenly passing, we are there to listen, shed tears, and giggle right along with them.”

These connections are what Whaley treasures most about her business.

“I absolutely love my customers, especially the ones who come visit me once or twice a week just to hang out and talk. There’s nothing like the relationships I’ve built within our little town.”

Whaley’s boutique is also a special way for her to give back. Through Wisteria Hill, she’s found opportunities to support those in need in the community, which is deeply important to her. While she doesn’t often share her contributions, her private acts of kindness have made a meaningful impact on individuals and families all over town.

Running a small business is not always easy. Replenishing items on time and dealing with overstock or stockouts can be difficult at times. But Whaley’s love for fashion and the joy it brings remain as strong as ever.

“Owning a small business is very hard but so worth it just for the community to come together,” she said.

Staying informed on the latest trends comes naturally to Whaley, thanks to visits to the Market — a wholesale destination for boutique owners — and various social media platforms, which she uses to stay in tune with her customers’ tastes.

At its heart, Wisteria Hill Boutique merges fashion and unity, where shopping becomes self-discovery, and everyone who walks through the door feels seen, understood, and celebrated. **GN**

Pastor Jacob Schofill

Love Without Borders

Members of Victory Baptist Church are committed to serving an underserved community here in Manchester.

By Jeriah Brumfield

Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

PASTOR JACOB Schofill, a soft-spoken yet passionate man of faith, never imagined how much his life would change after receiving a call from a street evangelist named Jason Belyew. Belyew, a Chicago native with a heart for the underserved, was surveying the Manchester area, praying for ministry opportunities. One day, he noticed something unusual: a woman carrying groceries on her head — a sight more reminiscent of Haiti than small-town Tennessee.

Belyew's curiosity and benevolence led him to a nearby motel, where three Haitian men greeted him cordially. Their conversation — carried out through broken sentences and Google Translate — revealed a hidden community of Haitian refugees living in motels across Manchester. Belyew, moved by their stories, called Schofill, who at the time was occupied with his own church activities and urged him to visit.

"Brother," Belyew said with conviction, "We are called to be the church, not do church." Those words rang in Schofill's heart, compelling him to take action.

When Schofill arrived at the motel, he found something both heartbreaking and humbling. Families





I don't think anyone who calls themselves a follower in Christ can ignore a fellow brother in need.

- Jacob Schofill



▲ Pastor Jacob Schofill leads an English class, creating connections through language and community.

were crammed into small, stuffy rooms — sometimes six to eight people sharing one space. There were no kitchens, supplies, or air conditioning in the sweltering summer heat. Pregnant women, exhausted fathers, and young children struggled to survive in unimaginable conditions, drawing water from outdoor spigots and struggling to scrape together the \$400 weekly motel rent.

But what stood out most to Schofill was their persistence and faith. Despite the hardships, these refugees carried themselves with dignity and what Schofill believed was a steadfast belief in God's provision. They wanted work, education, and the chance to create a better life.

"When I met them face to face, it was very simple. They needed help, and as Christ's followers, we are told to listen and to help others — to love our neighbor — no matter who they are or where they are from," he said.

He continued, "They've done everything legally. They want to follow the laws. America is a beautiful melting pot, and it's great to see people come here for refuge. One of the first things they want to run toward is the church so they can have community, safety, and grow together in God."

With the help of his father, a retired teacher, and his small congregation at Victory Baptist Church of 30 to 40 members, Schofill set out to meet the most immediate needs: food, water, clothing, and English. They began by organizing English classes on Saturdays at the church,

understanding that learning the language was key to the refugees' independence.

The first class was led by faith. Equipped with Duolingo, prayers, and motivation, Schofill prepared a simple lesson on pronouns and basic sentences. With each class, Schofill became more inspired to continue building relationships, restoring hope, and being what he believes is the hands and feet of Christ.

Each Saturday, volunteers pick up the refugees, many of whom walk miles during the week to find odd jobs or run errands. The church provides a warm, welcoming space for them to learn, share a meal, and experience community. Glee mixed with eager conversation abound as Haitian men, women, and children practice their English phrases and bond with their American neighbors. The meals, often donated by partnering churches, are both sustenance and an offering of love.

However, Schofill has heard heartbreaking stories along the way. Fathers separated from their families call home with tears in their eyes, desperate to provide but unable to find work. The father receives a call from his family, with his children asking, "Dad, we're hungry. We don't have a house. When can you send us money?" He's torn — telling them the truth about his struggles would crush their hope, but lying would make him seem selfish.

"As a father myself, it hit me," Schofill acknowledged.

As word of the ministry has spread, other churches have taken notice. While initial responses from community members were limited, the tide is slowly turning. Victory Baptist Church is now part of a growing network of supporters.

The ministry has been a blessing for the Haitian refugees. They're learning English, finding jobs, and building connections that will help them transition out of the motels. Perhaps most importantly, they've found a place where they're seen, enriched, and loved. For Victory Baptist Church, that calling has brought both challenges and blessings — but above all, it has brought purpose.

"As a Christian living comfortably, I can't, in good sense, not help my fellow brother. I cannot ignore him. I don't think anyone who calls themselves a follower in Christ can ignore a fellow brother in need."

Through their efforts, Victory Baptist Church's congregation has grown closer and has discovered new depths of love and compassion for their neighbors. For those inspired by Schofill's story, there are many ways to get involved. Donations of food, clothing, and learning materials are always welcome, as are volunteers for English classes and transportation.

In Manchester, a community of faith is proving that love knows no borders — and that when we listen to the needs of our neighbors, we find ourselves transformed in the process. **GN**



Welcome the *seasons* for celebrating

March opens our doors to renewal, warmth, and a spirit of togetherness.

AS WE step into March, the anticipation of spring fills the air, bringing with it a sense of renewal and warmth. This is a season for celebrating with family, whether it's through hearty meals or sweet indulgences during Easter gatherings. Each recipe in this collection reflects the spirit of togetherness and comfort that defines this time of year, inviting you to create lasting memories around the table. **GN**

Spicy Deviled Eggs

Submitted by Betty Ingram

12 eggs, hard boiled, shells removed, sliced lengthwise
1 envelope ranch salad dressing mix
1/2 t. cayenne pepper
2 T. sweet pickle relish
1/4 c. mayonnaise
1/4 c. ranch dressing, pourable
1 t. yellow mustard
paprika, for dusting



Carefully scoop egg yolks into a bowl; mash with fork until they have a grainy consistency. Stir in ranch salad dressing mix, cayenne pepper, and pickle relish; mix well. Add mayonnaise, ranch dressing, and yellow mustard. Place mixture into a pastry bag. Pipe yolk mixture into egg white halves. Dust the tops with paprika. Refrigerate until ready to serve.

Submit your recipes to be included in Good News Magazine and the Exchange Cookbook: www.southernaprons.com

Glazed Ham

Submitted by Rebecca Durham

1 ham, 6-7 lbs.

1 c. brown sugar

1 can orange juice concentrate

Place ham in a baking pan, fat side up. Combine the sugar and juice in a small mixing bowl. Pour half the juice mixture over the ham. Cover loosely with foil. Bake at 325° for 30 minutes per pound. About 30 minutes before ham is done, remove it from the oven. Score the fat and spoon mixture over the ham. Return it to the oven. Bake 30 minutes, uncovered at 400°.

Ham & Cheese Quiche

Submitted by Peggy Dunivan

2 c. sharp cheddar cheese, shredded

1 cup ham, chopped

1/4 c. onion, finely chopped

2 eggs, beaten

1/2 c. mayonnaise

1 c. milk

1 deep dish pie crust, 9", uncooked

Preheat oven to 375°. In a large bowl, combine cheese, ham, onion, eggs, mayonnaise, and milk. Pour into pie crust and bake for 45 minutes or until golden brown.

Sweet Milk Dinner Rolls

Submitted by Linda Womack

1 pkg. dry yeast, active, 1/4 oz.

2 c. warm milk

1/2 c. sugar


2 T. butter, melted

1 t. salt

4 to 5 c. AP flour


In a large mixing bowl, dissolve yeast in warm milk. Add sugar, butter, salt, and 3 cups flour; beat until smooth. Add enough remaining flour to form a soft dough. Turn onto a floured surface, knead until smooth and elastic, about 6-8 minutes. Place in a greased bowl, turning once to grease top. Cover and let rise in a warm place until doubled, about 1 hour. Punch dough down. Turn onto a floured surface, dividing dough into 16 pieces. Shape into a ball. Place 2 inches apart on greased baking sheets. Cover and let rise until dough is doubled, about 30 minutes. Bake at 350° for 35-40 minutes or until golden brown.





Susan Binkley

*A VISION
IN PROGRESS*



A DEEP DIVE INTO THE PLANS, CHALLENGES, AND SUPPORT BEHIND BLUE MONARCH'S 24,000-SQUARE-FOOT EXPANSION.

BY JERIAH BRUMFIELD // PHOTOGRAPHY BY BROOKE SNYDER
AND SUBMITTED BY SUSAN BINKLEY

SUSAN BINKLEY walks the construction site with both pride and purpose, her eyes scanning the 24,000-square-foot building. The sun catches the gleaming metal roof of a sprawling barn-like structure, its silhouette rising against rolling farmland like a promise coming to life. Here, in the countryside, something extraordinary is happening — Blue Monarch is expanding, not just in square footage, but in hope, healing, and the belief that families can rebuild their lives.

Blue Monarch is a well-known nonprofit organization that strives to help women and children break the cycle of addiction and abuse. The organization is now expanding its reach with a new 24,000-square-foot facility that promises to transform lives in ways its founder, Binkley, could only have dreamed of when she started this journey years ago.

This building, designed to resemble a beautiful, oversized barn that blends effortlessly into the rural landscape, represents years of careful planning and community support. It will not only alleviate overcrowding at the current facility but also allow Blue Monarch to serve the broader community better. As other organizations across the country and in Canada have reached out to learn from their model, the new space will host

workshops and training, enabling Blue Monarch to equip others to replicate their success.

“Ultimately, the way we can serve more women and children is by teaching others how to do what we do and do it well,” Binkley said.

This new facility will house staff offices, classrooms, and a recreation area for children, affectionately referred to by Binkley as “the tsunami” when they return from school each day. Most importantly, it will allow Blue Monarch to welcome five more families in the space they are currently using, bringing the total to 29 families a day — plus many more individuals throughout the year — into its life-changing program. Blue Monarch is proving that transformation is not only possible — it’s happening right here in Middle Tennessee.

FUNDRAISING BACKGROUND

The organization has consistently grown and evolved to address the needs of both mothers and children in recovery. The fundraising journey to support Blue Monarch’s expansion has been as transformative as the mission itself.

“We started having one major fundraising event, and so the purpose of that fundraising event has changed through the years,” Binkley explained.



▲ Side view of the large open space with offices above on both sides. Renderings credit: Michael Marchetti Architect

The funds raised initially aimed at replacing the roofs on the original buildings on the property. As the needs grew, so did the goals. Subsequent banquets raised money for new cottages in the transitional program and to acquire adjacent land, expanding the campus from 50 to 108 acres.

Fundraising efforts have continued to support the growing population of women and children the organization serves. According to Binkley, one key to Blue Monarch's success is its intentional focus on both the mothers' and children's recovery.

"We focus on the child's recovery as much as we do the moms," Binkley said. "We also have a very rich sober parenting program. A lot of our moms have come from homes where they didn't observe healthy parenting. In the early years of Blue Monarch, I think we really recognized that if we didn't help them learn how to parent their

children, then dealing with the stress of that could end up being the biggest trigger for relapse."

As Blue Monarch has grown, it has been important to ensure that the expansion does not compromise the quality of its services.

"We probably spent two years really studying how we can grow without compromising the integrity of the services that we provide, and we wanted to make sure that every single family would get the same rich experience."

CHALLENGES

The journey to this point, however, has been far from simple. Binkley reflected on the challenge of designing the new facility, admitting that it was even more difficult than expected.

"Well, I really feel like in our minds, we've been working on it for several years," she shared. "But when we started working on the design, that



*A circle of connection
— Blue Monarch moms
find encouragement and
community together.*

was challenging. We initially thought we needed a 12,000-square-foot building, and I spent countless hours working on the design plan.”

The process involved close collaboration with the staff, reviewing plans, imagining daily workflows, and identifying the purpose of each space. Binkley recalled that despite her experience designing buildings, this one was by far the most challenging.

“This one was probably the most challenging, making sure it would function the way we needed it to,” Binkley recalled.

Ultimately, after much deliberation, the team realized they needed a building twice the size they had originally thought: 24,000 square feet.

“We’ve terribly outgrown our space. Every problem we had always pointed back to the same solution — if we could just have more space.”

This larger space will provide the necessary room for all the programs and services Blue Monarch offers, ensuring that the organization can continue its critical work of healing and transformation without compromise.

A COMMUNITY UNITED

This new building is garnering a lot of attention, and the excitement surrounding it is even more obvious. Community members meet each construction update Binkley shares on social media with an outpouring of support and excitement.

Nearly 700 individuals, churches, businesses, and foundations have contributed to the project, making redemption possible for many families all over Middle Tennessee. It’s a true community effort, with donations ranging from modest amounts to six-figure sums, all fueled by a shared passion for Blue Monarch’s mission.

“It’s been a community effort. And it’s been an enthusiastic community effort,” she explained. “They’re not really trying to make an impression on anyone — they are absolutely giving from their heart, and they really are genuinely passionate about the work that we do, and so through the years, that has really been important to me. We’ve been very fortunate that people find out about what we do and then just fall in love with it.”

There’s exciting progress ahead, and Binkley shared that the team is still rallying to raise the



necessary funds for the project. She invites everyone to lend their support, whether through prayers for its successful completion, financial contributions, volunteering their time via the website, or donating essential items like toilet paper and paper towels. Every little bit helps.

GREAT THINGS AHEAD

It’s easy to imagine the laughter of children playing and the determined voices of mothers reclaiming their lives.

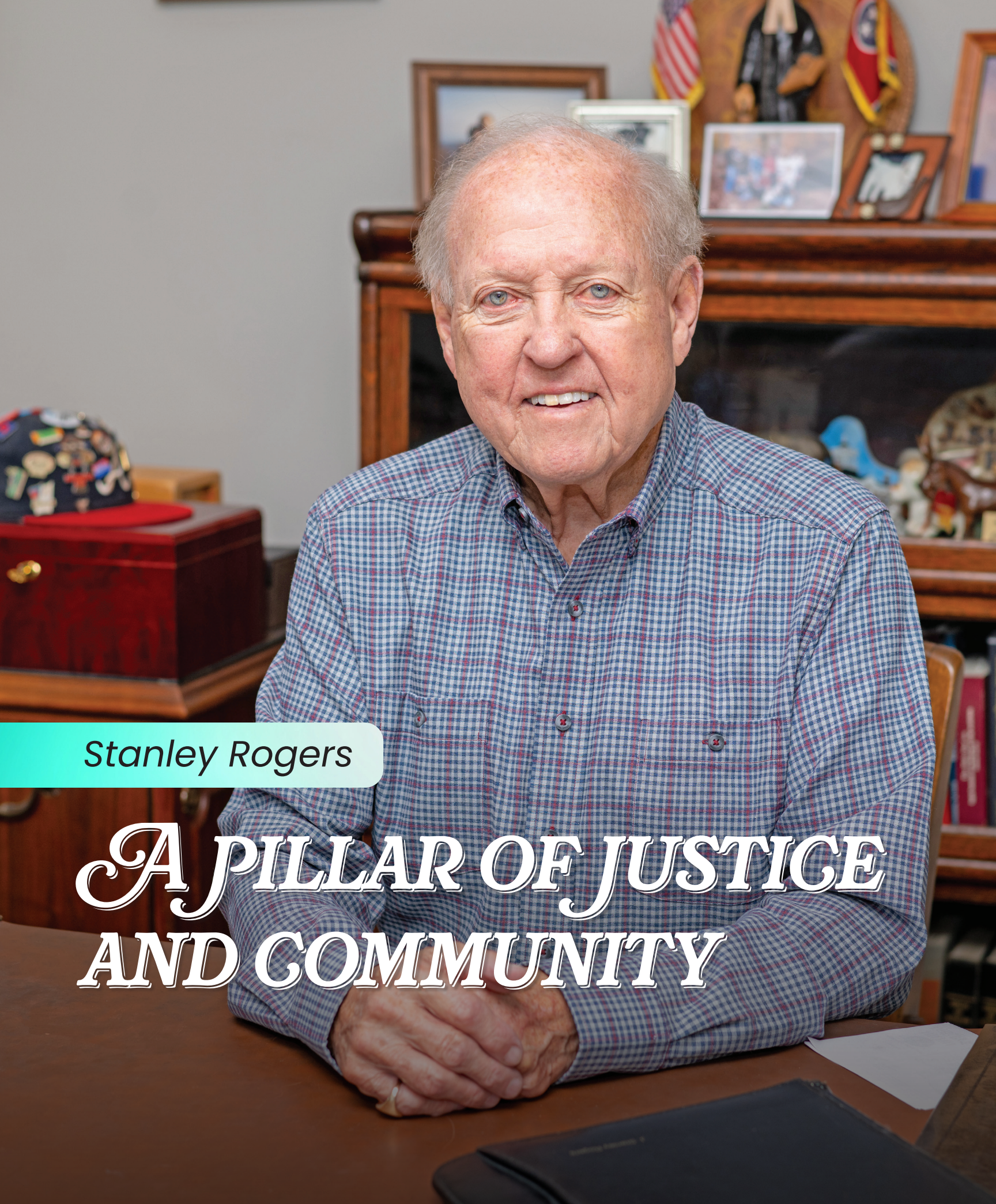
This new facility brings hope for brighter days ahead, putting the power of empathy on display. When the doors finally open, it will be a triumph for every woman who has found the strength to change her life, every child who has rediscovered joy, and every supporter who dared to believe in the possibility of a brighter future.

Here in rural Tennessee, Blue Monarch is proving that with faith, determination, and a little help from friends both near and far, miracles don’t just happen — they’re built with love and empathy. **GN**




**It’s been a
community effort.
And it’s been
an enthusiastic
community effort.**

– Susan Binkley



Stanley Rogers

*A PILLAR OF JUSTICE
AND COMMUNITY*



FOR OVER 60 YEARS, STANLEY PRACTICED LAW WITH INTEGRITY, EARNING THE RESPECT OF HIS PEERS AND CLIENTS ALIKE.

BY JERIAH BRUMFIELD // PHOTOGRAPHY BY ASHLEIGH NEWNES
AND SUBMITTED BY PATRICIA ROGERS

STANLEY ROGERS is a pillar of the community, a seasoned attorney, and a man whose contributions span more than six decades. His story is one of humble beginnings, professional triumphs, and unwavering commitment to his family, his profession, and his community.

Rogers was born in the small town of Kilpatrick, Alabama, and moved to Manchester when he was 10 years old in 1950. His father's involvement in establishing the Arnold Engineering Development Center prompted the move.

He grew up in Manchester, attending school from grade school through high school. He later attended Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU), where he completed his undergraduate studies. He went on to attend Vanderbilt Law School, graduating in 1963 and returning to his beloved hometown to begin a remarkable legal career. For over 60 years, Rogers practiced law in Manchester, dedicating himself to civil litigation and general practice.

Reflecting on his career, Rogers shared, "I've had a very good, worthwhile practice. It was rewarding in many ways."

His practice grew over the years, and though running a practice wasn't always easy, his commitment to fairness and openness remained at its core.

"Part of the law is to comply with the law," he said. "We had a very open and good practice for many years."

Rogers' professional accomplishments are matched by his remarkable political career. Serving as house majority leader in the Tennessee State Legislature for two terms, he was a close colleague of Speaker Ed McWherter and played a significant role in shaping state policies. One of the most notable chapters of Rogers' political career was his 1976 run for Congress against Al Gore.

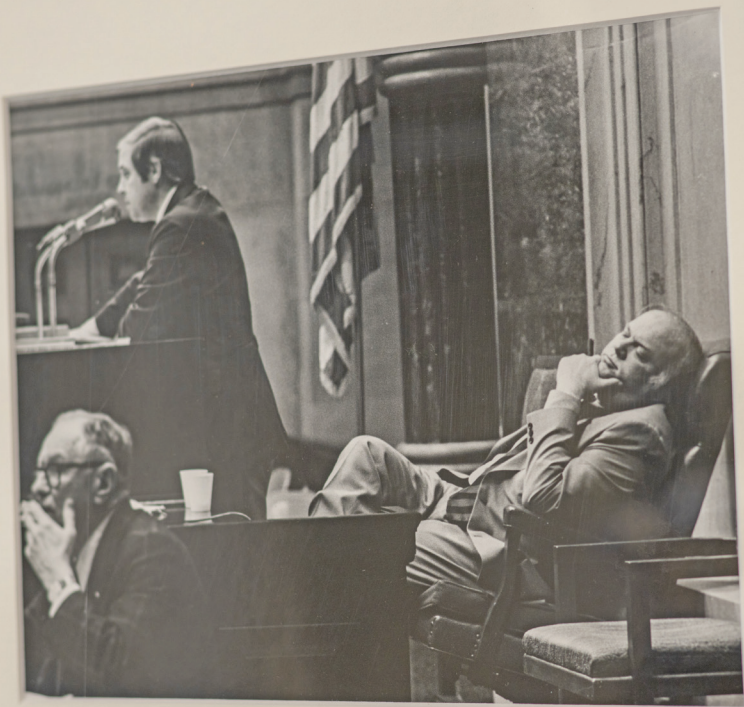
"I always say he ran against me," Rogers joked.

While the race was closely contested, Rogers graciously accepted the outcome.



I've had a very good,
worthwhile practice.
It was rewarding in
many ways.

- Stanley Rogers



◀ In this 1974 photo, Stanley Rogers speaks alongside House Speaker Ned McWherter during his tenure as House Majority Leader in the Tennessee House of Representatives. His leadership and vision influenced state policies and left a lasting impact on Tennessee's legislative history.

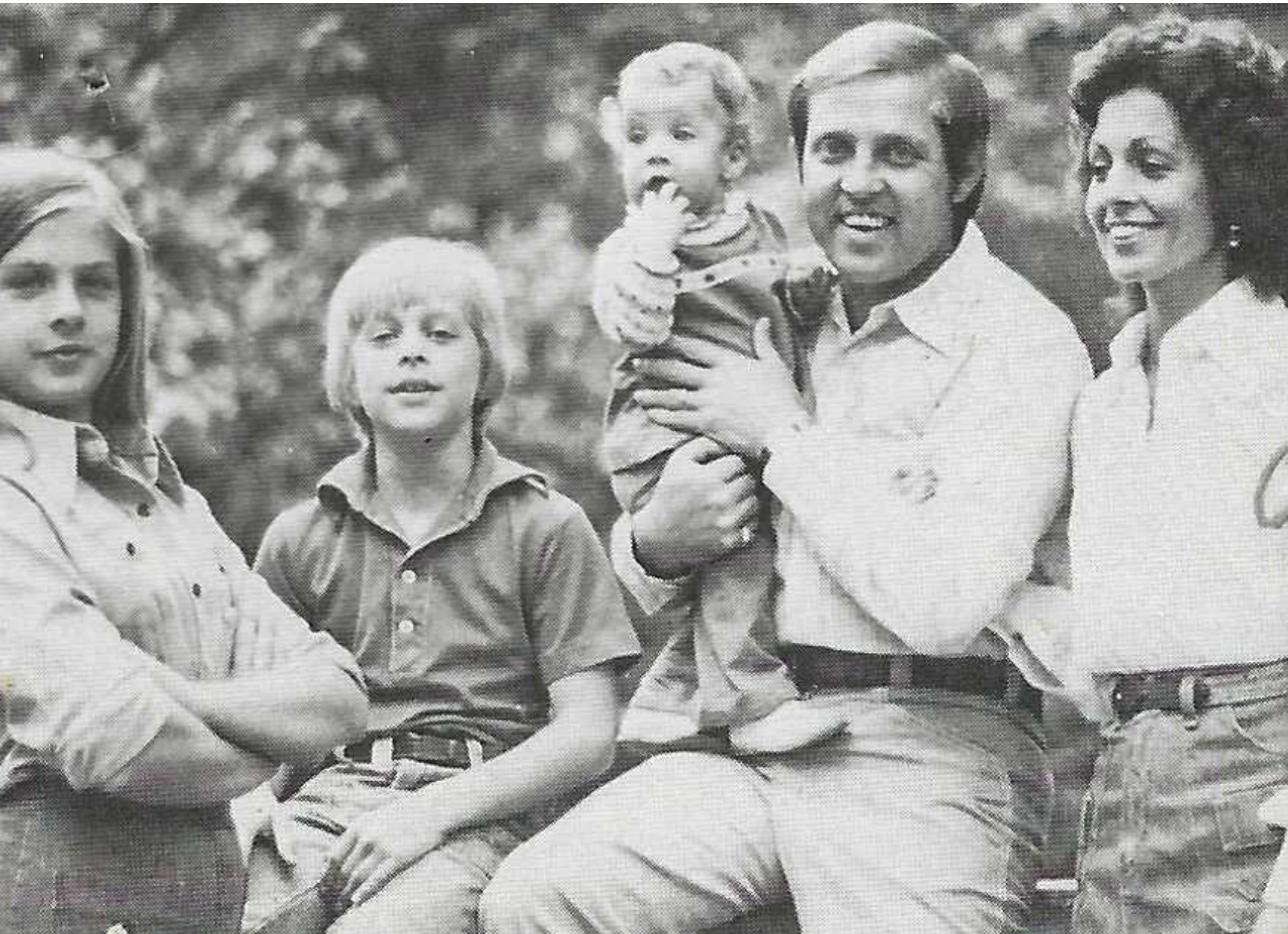
“I congratulated him the next morning, and we had breakfast together in Nashville,” he said. “Al has done a good job.”

Education has always been close to Rogers' heart. He spent over 15 years on the Tennessee Board of Regents, helping shape the future of higher education in the state.

“Having attended MTSU and Vanderbilt, I've always been close to the educational process,” he reflected.

Rogers' zeal for public service didn't stop with his political career. He dedicated over 15 years to the Tennessee Board of Regents, where he worked to advance education in the state.

“Having attended MTSU and Vanderbilt, I've always felt close to the educational process in Tennessee,” he





▲ Stanley and his wife, Patricia, share a quiet moment at home with Ayla, their 8-year-old dog. Their love story began in college, and more than six decades later, they're still by each other's side.

said. "Serving on the board of regents was incredibly rewarding."

At the center of Rogers' world is his wife, Pat. Their love story began in college when Stanley, then student body president at MTSU, was tasked with driving the cheerleaders around. Pat, a freshman cheerleader, caught his eye, and the two married shortly before Stanley graduated and moved to Nashville. There, Pat attended Peabody College while Stanley pursued his law degree.

"It turned out good for both of us," he said proudly.

The couple's three children have all settled in Manchester, raising families within a mile of their parents. Stanley's eldest daughter is a doctor of veterinary medicine, his son runs a successful finance business, and his youngest daughter is a dedicated teacher in the local school system.

"It's special to have them all nearby," Stanley said.

Retirement has brought Stanley and Pat a new way of life, including frequent

visits to their second home in Florida. Yet, their hearts remain firmly embedded in Manchester, where their legacy continues to flourish through their children and grandchildren.

"Life gets better and better," Stanley said of being a grandparent.

Integrity and service have been cornerstones of Stanley's life, principles he attributes to his upbringing and family values. His capacity for understanding and kindness has been evident in his professional and personal endeavors, earning him the respect and admiration of all who know him.

Stanley recounted some of his fondest memories with gratitude in his heart and humility in his voice.

"I've enjoyed it all," he said. "It was very meaningful to me and my family."

Through every challenge and triumph, he's always been there, transforming the community with his actions and his values. His devotion isn't just about the work he's done but also about the way he's shown up for the people who call this place home.

◀ A glimpse into history: Stanley Rogers with his young family — Amy, Stan, Rachel, Patricia, and himself — during his 1976 Congressional campaign against Al Gore. "I always say he ran against me," Stanley quipped with a smile.

Surrounded by memories and mementos, Stanley Rogers reflects on his six decades of legal practice. "I've had a very good, worthwhile practice," he shared. "It was rewarding in many ways."



I've enjoyed it all, it was very meaningful to me and my family.

- Stanley Rogers

With every decision and every act of service, he's built a reputation of integrity, kindness, and a deep love for a town that has influenced him just as much as he has influenced it. His life displays the impact one person can have when they give their all to something they believe in. GN.



Encounter Life Church Ribbon Cutting - Feb. 20



Photos submitted by Katy Riddle

Encounter Life Church celebrated its membership with the Manchester Chamber of Commerce on Feb. 20th, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, emphasizing its mission to serve the community.



1. Ethan Singleton and Josh Taylor 2. Members of the community and the chamber of commerce join together to celebrate the ribbon-cutting ceremony for Encounter Life Church. 3. David Bradley, Bill Nickels, and Christy Lewis 4. Caleb Barrett and Kristy Whitehead 5. Amanda De La Rosa and James West 6. Molly, Jodi, Ellie, Matthew, Will, Billy, Bennet, and Isaac Levensgood

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